## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

M. TSUCHIDA, et al

Serial No

09/665,448

Filed

eptember 19, 2000

METHOD AND SYSTEM OF DATABASE DIVISIONAL Anagement for parallel database system

Group:

2777

Examiner:

J. Corrielus

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

December 18, 2000

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please add new claims 40-91 as follows:

A database management method comprising the steps 40.

of:

defining a correspondence between a plurality of key ranges and a plurality of data storage areas in a storage device;

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